**LPG and Kerosene Dealers in Himachal Pradesh**

1464. SHRI ANIL SHARMA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of LPG and kerosene oil distributorships in Himachal Pradesh pending with the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas since 1998, district-wise;

(b) whether some more proposals to set up such distributorships in Himachal Pradesh are pending with the Ministry since 2000; and

(c) whether Government propose to take action in the matter, if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR) : (a) At present, there is no location for SKO/LDO dealership of the previous marketing plans, pending for commissioning in the State of Himachal Pradesh. However, nine locations for LPG distributorships of 1996-98 marketing plan, are pending for commissioning in the State.

(b) and (c) A proposal was received from Government of Himachal Pradesh in 1999 for setting up of LPG distributorships at 64 locations. Out of these, 12 locations were found viable for setting up of LPG distributorships. Government have already allotted LPG distributorships at 9 locations in favour of dependants of Kargil martyrs under Operation Vijay Special Scheme and 3 locations have been included in marketing plans.

**Surplus Manpower in ONGC**

1465. SHRIMATI N. P. DURGA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ONGC has more officers than workers resulting in unrest in certain categories; and

(b) if so, the action proposed to be taken to ensure transparency as well as to boost oil production which is dwindling inspite of adequate manpower?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) As on 01.10.2002 the manpower strength of Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) was 23,734 executives and 16,093 non-executives.

Further, oil and gas production of ONGC between April' 02 to October' 02 is higher than the production for the corresponding period in the previous year of 2001-02.ONGC has reported that there is no unrest and the industrial relations are quite peaceful. However, the Corporation has embarked upon an organizational restructuring exercise to address the imbalances in availability and requirement of manpower throughout the organisation and is, therefore, proposing to introduce an attractive Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) so that repositioning of the staff across the organisation may be achieved after the exit of VRS optees.

**LPG Consumption**

1466. MISS MABEL REBELLO : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be Pleased to state :

(a) the number of households which are covered by LPG in the country as on date;

(b) the number of households which are in urban areas, semi-urban areas, rural areas alongwith the State-wise figures for the last three years; and

(c) the percentage of LPG coverage by Indian Oil Corporation, Hindustan Petroleum, other oil companies and private sector in the country alongwith the State-wise figures for the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR) : (a) As on 1.10.2002, Public Sector Oil Marketing companies (OMCs) have 668 lakh domestic customers registered with their LPG distributors in the country.

(b) The customer population, at all India level, in urban and rural areas, registered with OMCs for the last three years was as under :

(figures in lakhs)

| Year | Urban | Rural |
|---|---|---|
| As on 1.4.2000 | 455.22 | 18.07 |
| As on 1.4.2001 | 543.07 | 35.46 |
| As on 1.4.2002 | 582.48 | 52.53 |